

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:BH

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

NEA:ALATHERTON (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, YS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN CITIZENS IN JAIL IN ADEN

REF: (A) SANA 2217; (B) SANA 2218

1. YOU MAY BRIEF MINISTER OF STATE SAID ALONG FOLLOWING
LINES:

A. USG IS DELIGHTED THAT YARG IS WILLING RAISE SUBJECT
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN ADEN. ALL USG EFFORTS -
PRINCIPALLY THROUGH UK EMBASSY IN ADEN - HAVE BEEN TO NO
AVAIL, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE REPEATEDLY REMINDED PDRY OF OUR
INTEREST IN THESE CASES. TORHAN AND KOPP HAVE BOTH BEEN
KEPT IN JAIL FOR OVER TWO YEARS, WITHOUT TRIAL, WITHOUT
ACCESS TO BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICIALS (WITH THE SINGLE
EXCEPTION OF A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH TORHAN IN NOVEMBER
1974), WITHOUT LEGAL COUNSEL, AND WITHOUT EVER BEING
BROUGHT TO TRIAL.

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B. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TORHAN AND KOPP WILL BE BROUGHT TO
"TRIAL" IN ADEN VERY SOON. OUR HOPE IS THAT THEY WOULD BE
RELEASED PROMPTLY THEREAFTER. THIS HOPE IS BASED ON
PATTERN FOLLOWED IN CASE OF ANOTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN,

EDWARD FRANKLIN, WHO WAS RELEASED IN MAY 1974. WE ASSUME

THAT PARTYS INTEREST IS PRIMARILY IN THE PROPAGANDA VALUE
OF SUCH A TRIAL.

C. USG CATEGORICALLY DENIES THAT TORHAN OR KOPP ARE SPIES.
IT DEFIES COMMON SENSE THAT USG WOULD SEND OBVIOUS
WESTERNERS TO ADEN TO SPY. BOTH TORHAN AND KOPP HAD
PLAUSIBLE - IF NOT COMPELLING - REASONS FOR VISITING ADEN.

2. YOU ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED TO FURTHER BRIEF SAID ON
BACKGROUND OF CASE, ALONG LINES OF EARLIER MESSAGES.

3. YOU ARE FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO TELL SAID THAT USG IS
REPEAT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO
PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER (AS SUGGESTED REFTELS), BUT YOU
SHOULD NOT SUGGEST OR IMPLY THAT SUCH A LETTER WOULD COME
FROM SENIOR LEVELS OF USG.

4. IN LIGHT OF APPARENTLY IMMINENT "TRIAL" OF TORHAN AND

KOPP IN ADEN, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT YARG INTERVENTION
AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE, BUT WE ARE WILLING
DEFER TO JUDGMENT OF EMBASSY AND YARG. KISSINGER

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